

# The Sun

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## E Pluribus Unum.

Look at the casualty list of any day and you will be struck by the incongruous contrast and combination of names. Or perhaps as a cosmopolitan New Yorker, accustomed day by day to the like polyglot confusion, you will not be struck by it at all but will accept it as a matter of course. If so, then your absence of surprise only goes to emphasize the point and to make a strange matter more strange. For there is nothing national about the look of the list, nothing distinctively American—unless it be the very lack of apparent outstanding nationality.

The names appear to have been chosen at random from all the nations of the earth. Along with those which evidence the English origin of our parent stock there will be others plainly French, Italian, Irish, Spanish, Scandinavian, Greek, Armenian, German—what you will; and yet others too foreign even to localize, names vaguely oriental, names of the Slav from Central Europe or the Balkans, names of the International Jew. Probably there was never such an army in the world; not in the Crusades, nor under the gathered power of Persia, nor behind the eagles of Imperial Rome.

These men gave blood and life as of one nation, and for one common home. They are Americans now. It is nothing to the purpose what they or their fathers may once have been. Nor does it matter at all that ours is largely a draft army. The same mixture of races appears in the Navy and the Marines, recruited by volunteering. For the compulsion by which these men gathered for battle is of their own making, the corporate will of themselves and millions of their like, the act of a government which consciously and upon principle derives its power from the consent of the governed.

That is the essential point. We are a nation truly, perhaps more truly than we know. But ours is not like most others, a nationality inherited through race, language and religion, through immemorial tradition of an old and common dwelling place. We have our traditions indeed, although most of them are too young for us to know them by that name: our tradition of pluck, our tradition of inventiveness and initiative, our tradition of humorous, unselfish courage. We have land and language, although they are for many of us not yet a mother country nor a mother tongue. We are that strange thing in the world, a nation consciously of the spirit made one by one idea and entered into as a voluntary society by such as are of riper years and able to answer for themselves: a nation founded upon its scriptures, like a religion.

The wise men who set down in written words the thought which made us build otherwise and better than they knew. For they went about to build a nation out of federated States; but they achieved an unwarlike Pentecost of patriotism, a union in one spirit, out of every race and every tongue. It is in that spiritual sense of one faith, one system, and one purpose that they have bound our commonwealth together and made us, out of many, one.

## The Census Bill.

The Democratic majority in the House of Representatives has passed, and the Senate now has under consideration, a bill providing for the census of 1920. This census will be taken in the spring of a year in which a national election is to be held, and the Democrats in Congress, who can see a political job as far off as the observer at the Lick Observatory can see a comet, have carefully devised a scheme under which practically all of the appointments under the census bureau would be non-competitive.

The assistant director, 4,000 clerks, 400 supervisors and 80,000 enumerators are to be selected, if the bill becomes law, not in accordance with rules established by the United States Civil Service Commission, but by tests to be prescribed by the Director of the Census. No American needs to be told what this will mean. The tests will bar not only men of political parties opposed to the Democratic party, but men of the Democratic party who are in disfavor with the

faction in which the powers that be are interested. The Secretary of the National Civil Service Reform League says of the measure:

"This bill creates 100,000 jobs free from all control. They are entirely in the hands of the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the Census. It has been charged that both these officials are ardent politicians—but I do not concern myself with that, because it makes little difference. They will be subject to such hectoring and badgering from politicians in every quarter of the country, once they get this power of appointment, that it will be practically impossible for them to keep politics out of the census, even should they desire to do so."

"The jobs created begin January 1, 1920. That is a Presidential year, and also a Congressional year. It is not impossible that the census of 1920 will play a large part in the election of 1920."

"A hundred thousand Federal office holders, appointed by politicians, can do a good deal toward electing any Congressman, or any President for that matter, that they are told to assist. It is a simple case of using public office for private and partisan political ends."

The bill is so drawn that the nation would not even have the benefit of fair competition among all Democrats for the jobs. Only those Democrats who happened to be aligned with the faction in favor at Washington would be eligible for appointment, and thus the possibility of getting capable men and women for difficult tasks would be greatly reduced.

President Wilson has said that politics is adjourned; the Civil Service Commission is ready and able to pick qualified and unbiased candidates for the census bureau jobs; and the Senate has a chance now to undo the work of the partisan politicians in the House. If it does not, Mr. Wilson should veto the bill, for as it stands now it is a vicious piece of spoils legislation, unfit for the statute books of the nation.

## Colonel Roosevelt's Decision.

Colonel Roosevelt's decision not to become a candidate for Governor will disappoint a great number of citizens, not only in the Republican party, but in other parties.

Colonel Roosevelt embodies the qualities of unflinching patriotism, fearless integrity and uncompromising intellectual probity which to-day are most needed by the nation; but his conception of his duty is one which would make it impossible for him to perform the functions of Governor of the State of New York as his conscience would require, and at the same time serve the nation in the way he can serve it better than any other private citizen in America.

In Colonel Roosevelt's letter to Attorney-General Lewis he makes plain his understanding of the responsibility of the office of Governor. The duties of that office, he says, "are not only of the highest importance but are also very exacting and onerous and demand all of any man's time and energy; and whoever occupies the place should devote himself wholeheartedly to the work, and therefore his heart and soul and brain should be wholly absorbed in the work." The man who swears to fulfill the Governor's duties to the best of his ability has no time for other serious engagements, and Theodore Roosevelt is not a man on whom an obligation, much less an oath bound obligation, rests lightly.

It was for Colonel Roosevelt to decide how he would serve his fellow Americans: whether he should continue in the capacity of a private citizen to guard their interests, or as Governor of New York put himself directly in the service of the State. He has chosen, and the matter is settled; Theodore Roosevelt is going to exercise the wide freedom that belongs to an American citizen, in the same way he has always exercised his rights.

## Seniors at Play.

It is instructive to glance through the Year Book of the Seniors' Golf Association, that clan of sturdy players who have lived fifty-five years or more and are proud of it. The roster discloses that golfers from nineteen States and the District of Columbia have achieved the happy distinction of membership; that from New Hampshire to Texas, from New York to Missouri they pack all their troubles in the old golf bag and move annually to fair Apawamis with youthful enthusiasm, determined to win a prize or have a glorious time trying to. Not one of them but succeeds in the latter purpose.

In the home addresses of members every New England State except Maine is set down. What's the matter with Maine? The Middle West comes in strong with Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Indiana; the South is nearly as well represented with Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Texas. In number of representatives New York naturally leads, with New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts following close and Pennsylvania not far behind.

Industrial and financial corporations lead in the business vocations represented, and lawyers and judges in the professions, although doctors of divinity and of medicine are not lacking, and play sound golf.

The prizes offered are not many; no Jeweller's stock of glistening medals are to be won and worn for the asking. The young fellow who wins one of the few prizes wins it by playing smart golf. The records prove this. Last year the championship 36 holes gross prize was won with the score of 172, which is stepping along at eight under fives for two rounds over a tricky, full length course. The two 18 hole gross prizes, one each for the two periods of the tournament, were won

in identical scores, 84, six under fives. Travelling at that sustained speed over Apawamis takes steady nerves, a strong will, agile, powerful and well controlled muscles.

We are informed that speeches at tournament dinners are intensely patriotic, that the singing of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" is led by a civil war veteran, and that when the toastmaster asks members having a son Over There to rise nearly the whole company stands up.

We confidently list the Seniors' golf as an essential industry.

## No More War Godmothers.

Exit the epistolary godmother. The War Department, in forbidding all officers and men to correspond with strangers, has kicked Romance in the face, and perhaps wisely.

In armies lacking the amusements which are provided for American soldiers here and in France the godmother was probably a comfort. The soldier without relatives found respite from loneliness in a letter from a woman, even if he never knew her, never would see her. But so many pains have been taken by various organizations to cheer the American soldier in his spare hours that godmothers are non-essentials of war. There is also a hidden danger, for the War Department fears that not all godmothers may be loyal.

"Efforts are constantly being made by strangers to find soldiers with whom they may correspond, in most cases innocently enough, but the opportunity which might be offered to a wholesale propaganda by well organized groups of enemy sympathizers is obvious."

The soldier will not miss the godmother as much as the godmother will miss the soldier. He has a large and active war with which to occupy his mind. The godmother will miss the thrill of peering into the post office box to see whether there is a letter for her from Upton or France. Perhaps she is twenty years older than he; what if it? He will never get out to Brickville, Mo., and he will remember her, through the pink note paper, as a beauty of nineteen.

## A New Government for India.

To the British Parliament there is soon to be submitted a plan, scarcely yet complete in all its details, for a limited home rule in India. The sponsors for this new scheme of government are the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, Baron CHAMBERS, and the Secretary for India, EDWIN S. MONTAGU. The Secretary, who from his long familiarity with Indian affairs is well fitted for the task, is chiefly responsible for the plan. He has spent months in travel and study in India and in consultation with native rulers, and the suggestions which he makes are largely the result of these experiences.

In the present war India has shown in a marked degree her loyalty to the British Government and to the allied cause. She was early made the centre of a most active German propaganda, which has been carried on by Germans who crossed into northern India from Persia and by renegade Mohammedans who were in German pay. In this way the Germans succeeded in causing sporadic revolts among the native troops in some of the garrison towns and in stirring up unrest among the Mohammedan tribesmen along the northwestern frontier.

The revolts in the garrison towns were quickly suppressed. The unrest on the northern border has been principally troublesome because it necessitated the presence of British troops to protect the natives of the northern plains from the hillmen. The great purpose of the German propaganda, which was to arouse the Afghans against the British, has been a complete failure. The Amir of Afghanistan early in the war announced his loyalty to England, and he reaffirmed his allegiance to the allied cause when Germany began making her advance into southern Russia and Persia.

All the official communications from India disprove the reports of native unrest and discontent that have been circulated by the so-called Indian revolutionists in Europe and America. An investigation by the Government, however, proved that the leaders of this movement were actually working in the interest of Germany. The trail led even to a question of the loyalty of the Hindu poet RAMDHRANATH TAGORE, who had made a tour of this country. The killing of two leaders of the movement at the time of their trial in San Francisco put an end to any further open activity of these self-declared revolutionists in this country. The patent fact developed was that these people represented no organized element of discontent in India and that their statement that they were backed by "millions of Indians suffering from the oppression of misrule and injustice" was pure fiction.

The very nature of the Indian population, its many racial and religious divisions, its ignorance, its adherence to century old customs and its belief in caste distinctions all make a great national organization impossible. It is these same reasons that have caused the difficulties of rule not only by the native princes but the British Indian Government. The explanation offered for the introduction of the new plan of government is that the declarations of both British and American statesmen concerning the liberalization of the aims of the Allies "have given new force and vitality to the growing demands among the progressive section of the Indian people for self-government." According to the proposed plan, the

new government shall be composed as follows:

"Provincial legislatures, to be composed of directly elected representatives."

"A Viceroyal legislature for all India, to be composed of two chambers—the Legislative Assembly of India and the Council of State."

"The Indian Privy Council, members of which are to be appointed by the King-Emperor."

"A Council of Princes."

This plan is really in the nature of a trial. In ten years after its adoption a commission is to be appointed to re-examine the political situation and to determine what further power can be given the native government. Then similar commissions are to follow at intervals of not less than twelve years. In this way Great Britain hopes to determine the ability of the native for active and intelligent voting as well as his capacity for self-government.

Those who have wandered over the fate of the Dove of Peace will be relieved to learn that she has put on a uniform and is serving Uncle Sam as a carrier pigeon on the western front.

Serious consideration of a plan to invade Canada from this country with 100,000 German reservists was exactly what might have been expected from the Kaiser's agents here. The gullibility of Prussian efficiency is one of its most amazing qualities.

Officers and enlisted men of the American Expeditionary Forces who received an income of \$1,000 or more for the calendar year 1917 are required to prepare income tax returns so that they will reach the proper collectors of internal revenue in the United States not later than October 1, 1918. The War Department announced to-day—Despatch from Washington.

We hope the Treasury Department will be able to enlist the assistance of the Post Office Department for the soldiers. It would not be a popular task to punish a fighter in France because the postal authorities lost or delayed his income tax return.

The Crown Prince may be striving to earn a reputation as a master of the art of retreating.

The Kaiser once demanded that all American ships in European waters should be painted like battleships, but the camouflage corps indignantly denied that his wish was the father of their art.

New fuel director of New York State—Newspaper headline.

Is the present hot spell a sample of what he intended to do?

A large steamer, with part of her smokestack gone and her bridge damaged, in tow of a Government tug off the southern New England coast, was reported by the captain of a Long Island Sound steamer at an unnamed port yesterday; the damage the ship had suffered led the skipper who reported her to believe she had met a German submarine, and his opinion was greatly strengthened when he observed that she bore the markings of the Belgian relief service.

The National Baseball League has voted not to go out of business, despite the draft. Even in professional sport half a loaf may turn out to be better than no bread.

The Government has now taken over almost everything but the temperature.

The Americans are taking towns faster than they can learn to pronounce the names of them.

## LOUIS THE DOG BITTEN.

Ungrateful Animals Have Taken a Nip at Genius.

To the Editor of THE SUN—Sir: Let me relate in the third person incidents experienced by myself.

My best friend was summing at the Water Gap in 1905. Each morning he left the boarding house intent on a sketching walk. One time a mile away, passing a house, up jumped a black Spitz—running, leaping in front—his short, wishing to be recognized. My friend, always polite, whistled, patted the dog and takes him on this walk. For two weeks this companionable outing seemed desirable. The next time, for no reason whatsoever, Mr. Spitz showed signs of viciousness. The whistle failed to hunt for a stick, suddenly the dog makes a bound at my friend and tries to bite his hand. Unable to understand this ferocity in his canine friend, he resorts to his weapon, his cane, and commands the dog to run home. Shyly, he large stones at him expedites the dog's departure. The next time, passing a house, up jumped a black Spitz—running, leaping in front—his short, wishing to be recognized. My friend, always polite, whistled, patted the dog and takes him on this walk. 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